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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Kazumasa AYUKAWA et al.

Group Art Unit : 3682

Appl. No. : 09/961,365

Examiner : M. CHARLES

Filed : September 25, 2001

Confirmation No. : 5941

For : THIN AUTOTENSIONER

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Customer Service Window, Mail Stop AMENDMENT
Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Sir :

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. §1.56 and §§1.97-1.98, and supplemental to the Information Disclosure Statements previously filed, Applicants hereby submit a copy of a United Kingdom Search Report dated May 23, 2005, with respect to patent family member United Kingdom Patent Application No. GB 0508653.3, in which the following documents were cited:

U.S. Patent No. 5,599,245;

European Patent Publication No. EP 0 907 040;

European Patent Publication No. EP 0 509 313; and

United Kingdom Patent Publication No. GB 2 377 981.

The category of relevance, pertinent portions, and claims to which each document is relevant, as ascertained by the United Kingdom Examiner are set forth in the United Kingdom Search Report.

Further to 37 C.F.R. §1.98 (a)(2)(ii), a copy of the U.S. patent is not enclosed herewith. However, if a copy is needed, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the above material and cite the same. Copies of the above-noted foreign documents are attached hereto and all of the documents are listed on the attached PTO-1449 Form. The Examiner is requested to initial the appropriate spaces on the attached Form and to return a copy of the completed Form to Applicants with the next official communication in the present application.

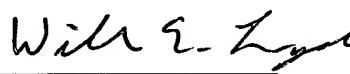
Since this Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted subsequent to a Final Office Action, Applicants have provided below a Statement Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e), and a check including the amount of \$180.00 to cover the fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) is being submitted herewith in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(d)(2). However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of any necessary additional fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0089.

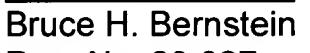
Statement Under 37 C.F.R. 1.97(e)

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.97(e), the undersigned hereby states that each item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of the information disclosure statement. Of course, this statement does not apply to information that has previously been cited by Applicant or the Examiner in the present application as that information is already of record and no certification is necessary.

Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kazumasa AYUKAWA et al.


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July 19, 2005
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***EXAMINER:** Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw a line through if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.